

### 10/5/00 Entangled

A 31-year-old, mother of three small children, was killed when she became entangled in a machine. The victim was a co-lead worker for a crew of 12 people in a paper recycling operation. She had worked for her employer for about four months operating a conveyor. The crew had just started work for the day, and begun to load paper on a 50-foot conveyor belt. The paper traveled along the conveyor, on a landing where workers hand-remove contaminants, and then on to a machine that sorts the paper.

The victim had received some training in lockout/tag out procedures (the control of hazardous energy), and was in control of the conveyor. The paper-sorting machine was in control of a different operator, who had the additional duties of operating a forklift truck. Both the conveyor and the paper sorter could be locked out.

The victim had stopped the conveyor and climbed onto the paper-sorting machine. The operator of the sorting machine was unaware that the victim was on top of the machine and turned it on, crushing her.

Employers are required to have an energy control program if they have machinery that requires servicing and maintenance in which the unexpected energization or start up or release of stored energy could cause injury. (See WAC 296-24-110 Part A-4 for more information).